

· 综述与专论 ·

微生物-肠-脑轴在癫痫中的作用研究进展

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【摘要】 癫痫是一种以反复发作、无端发作为特征的慢性神经系统疾病, 影响着全世界 5 000 多万人, 近 30% 的癫痫患者无法用药物控制。值得注意的是, 患有炎症性肠病患者更容易患癫痫。肠脑轴是指肠道与大脑之间的双向交流, 通过神经网络和神经内分泌、免疫、炎症等途径调节肠道内稳态和中枢神经系统。最近的研究表明, 肠道功能障碍以及生态失调可能与癫痫的发病机制和易感性有关。此外, 粪便微生物群移植、益生菌干预和生酮饮食等方式重建肠道微生物群在顽固性癫痫治疗中展现出良好的效果, 进一步支持了肠道菌群与癫痫之间可能的联系。本文介绍了微生物-肠-脑轴, 综合既往研究中已知的肠道微生物群在癫痫发病和治疗中的作用, 为探讨基于肠道微生物群的癫痫治疗新方案提供参考。

【关键词】 癫痫; 微生物-肠-脑轴; 肠道微生物群; 综述**【中图分类号】** R 742.1 **【文献标识码】** A DOI: 10.12114/j.issn.1007-9572.2025.0003**Research Progress on the Role of the Microbiota-Gut-Brain Axis in Epilepsy Research Progress on the Role of the Microbiota-Gut-Brain Axis in Epilepsy**LI Jing^{1, 2}, LIU Ziqi^{3, 4}, QIAN Li^{3, 4*}, YAO Ruiqin^{1, 2*}

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【Abstract】 Epilepsy is a chronic neurological disorder characterized by recurrent, unprovoked seizures, affecting over 50 million people worldwide, with nearly 30% of patients unable to achieve seizure control through medication. Notably, individuals with inflammatory bowel disease are at a higher risk of developing epilepsy. The gut-brain axis refers to the bidirectional communication between the gut and the brain, regulating intestinal homeostasis and central nervous system function through neural networks, neuroendocrine, immune, and inflammatory pathways. Recent studies suggest that gut dysfunction and dysbiosis may play a role in the pathogenesis and susceptibility of epilepsy. Additionally, interventions such as fecal microbiota transplantation, probiotic therapy, and ketogenic diets, which aim to restore gut microbiota balance, have shown promising effects in the treatment of refractory epilepsy, further supporting a potential link between the gut microbiota and epilepsy. This paper describes the microbial-gut-brain axis, synthesizing what is known from previous studies about the role of the gut microbiota in the pathogenesis and treatment of epilepsy, to inform the exploration of new gut microbiota-based therapeutic options for epilepsy.

【Key words】 Epilepsy; Microbial-gut-brain axis; Gut microbiota; Review**基金项目:** 江苏省研究生科研创新计划 (KYCX22_2869)**引用本文:** 李静, 刘子琦, 钱莉, 等. 微生物-肠-脑轴在癫痫中的作用研究进展 [J]. 中国全科医学, 2025. DOI: 10.12114/j.issn.1007-9572.2025.0003. [Epub ahead of print] [www.chinagp.net]

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癫痫作为一种常见的神经系统疾病,其发病机制复杂,涉及遗传、环境和神经化学等多方面因素,其特点是复发和自发性发作^[1],全球约有5 000万人患有癫痫^[2]。抗癫痫治疗最常见的方式是药物治疗,其中约30%的患者对常规抗癫痫药物治疗无反应,这种现象被称为顽固性癫痫^[3]。此外,神经刺激以及手术虽然有效性高,但并非所有患者都能从中受益^[4-5]。因此,探索新的治疗靶点和疗法,已成为神经科学领域的重要课题。

癫痫患者常伴有胃肠道症状,且炎症性肠病患者更容易出现癫痫发作^[6]。生酮饮食长期以来被广泛用于治疗难治性癫痫^[2, 7]。这些临床现象支持了肠道与癫痫之间的关系。近年来,多组学方法的普及使得神经学中微生物群的组成和功能的研究成为可能,有研究表明癫痫患者与健康人、癫痫患者与生酮饮食治疗前后以及动物模型的粪便微生物组成存在统计学差异^[8-11]。这些差异表明肠道菌群可能在癫痫的发生与发展中起关键作用。通过个性化饮食、益生菌、抗生素治疗甚至粪菌移植(FMT)来调节肠道微生物群,可能成为未来难治性癫痫的新疗法。

近年来,微生物群与肠脑轴之间的相互作用已成为神经科学领域的一个重要研究方向^[12-14]。微生物-肠-脑轴涵盖了神经、内分泌、代谢和免疫系统等多条生理路径^[15],肠神经系统(ENS)作为其中的重要组成部分,不仅独立调节胃肠道的生理功能,还通过中枢神经系统(CNS)影响脑功能^[16]。

目前,尽管已有多个研究探讨了肠道微生物群与癫痫的关系,然而,关于微生物群调节癫痫的具体机制、治疗效果及其作为生物标志物的潜力仍然存在许多未知领域。本文将基于微生物-肠-脑轴总结最新的研究进展,并探讨癫痫的治疗策略。

1 本文文献检索策略

计算机检索 PubMed、Web of Science 等数据库,检索时间设定为建库至2024年12月,中文检索词包括“癫痫”“肠道菌群”“肠道微生物”“微生物-肠-脑轴”,英文检索词包括“epilepsy”“Microbiome-gut-brain axis”“FMT”“Gut”。纳入标准:文献内容涉及“微生物-肠-脑轴”在癫痫中的作用和癫痫发生的神经生物学机制。排除标准:与本文主题无关联、质量差、无法获得全文的文献。最终纳入文献68篇。

2 微生物-肠-脑轴

微生物群是生活在肠道中的各种微生物,包括50个细菌门,其数量是人体体细胞和生殖系细胞的10倍^[17],一个强大的肠道微生物群是动态平衡且多样化

的,并拥有6个优势门(厚壁菌门、拟杆菌门、放线菌门、变形菌门、梭杆菌门和疣微菌门),其中厚壁菌门和拟杆菌门约占其组成的90%^[18-19]。肠道中数万亿的微生物是肠道-大脑轴的关键调节器之一^[20],例如,肠道微生物群能够通过调节肠道神经系统控制胃肠道功能^[21]。微生物群还可以合成包括血清素、 γ -氨基丁酸(GABA)在内的多种神经递质参与行为和认知活动^[22]。在帕金森病等影响大脑和行为的疾病中,观察到粪便中短链脂肪酸(菌群衍生代谢物)水平的降低^[23]。总的来说,神经系统疾病中所谓的肠脑轴是一个能够通过微生物群活动积极或消极影响大脑功能的系统^[24-25],这个轴就像一个动态的双向神经内分泌系统,包含直接的神经连接、免疫因子和内分泌信号。

3 癫痫患者肠道菌群的改变

癫痫患者,尤其是难治性癫痫患者,通常表现出与健康对照组不同的肠道微生物群组成^[10]。例如,研究发现,难治性癫痫患者的肠道菌群在拟杆菌门和变形菌门的相对丰度上较低,而厚壁菌门和放线菌门的丰度较高^[26]。另一项研究表明,与健康受试者相比,癫痫患者的变形杆菌数量增加^[9]。肠道微生物群(GM)失调与癫痫发作频率可能是癫痫发作的两个密切相关的核心特征^[27]。在啮齿类动物癫痫模型的研究中观察到在紧张的环境下,动物更容易发生癫痫发作,并且应激能够改变肠道菌群^[28]。上述研究显示了肠道微生物群的组成与癫痫活动易感性之间似乎存在关联。

4 癫痫患者微生物-肠道-脑轴可能的作用机制

4.1 免疫与炎症途径

癫痫的发病机制与神经免疫和神经炎症有关^[29]。星形胶质细胞具有包括调节血-脑脊液屏障的完整性、神经递质的循环和参与免疫应答等多种功能^[30]。小胶质细胞介导先天免疫反应^[31]。小胶质细胞和星形胶质细胞通过释放过量的细胞因子参与癫痫的发病过程,例如,肠道微生物将膳食色氨酸代谢为芳香烃受体激动剂,并与其受体相互作用,控制小胶质细胞的激活和转化生长因子 α (TGF- α)和血管内皮生长因子 β (VEGF- β)的表达,从而调节星形胶质细胞的致病活性^[32-33]。此外,癫痫的发病还与外周免疫细胞,如T细胞和单核细胞入侵脑组织有关^[34]。当肠道菌群失调时,肠道的免疫屏障会被破坏,细菌及其代谢产物如细胞因子、肽聚糖等可能进入血液循环,激活外周免疫细胞,从而改变血-脑脊液屏障的通透性,最终引发CNS的炎症反应。这种免疫反应可能直接或间接诱导癫痫的发生^[35]。肠道菌群有很大可能通过免疫炎症途径影响了癫痫的发生,但更为确切的相关机制还有待进一步研究。

4.2 神经系统途径

微生物-肠-脑轴通过相互连接的神经系统发挥调节作用^[36]。ENS 和 CNS 之间最重要的信号传输途径是迷走神经。通过神经足细胞利用谷氨酸作为神经递质与迷走神经突触,肠道信号可以传递到脑干感觉核,形成肠-脑神经回路^[37]。空肠弯曲杆菌口服接种小鼠模型导致原癌基因 c-fos 表达在感觉神经节和初级脑干迷走神经感觉传递核,表明肠道刺激可以通过自主神经系统调节大脑活动^[38]。迷走神经刺激一直作为一种正常的癫痫治疗方法^[39],有研究报道迷走神经传入纤维的电刺激可以改变大脑中血清素、GABA 和谷氨酸的浓度,从而解释了其在癫痫中的作用^[40]。

总之,微生物-肠-脑轴通过多层次的神经调节机制,协调肠道与大脑之间的信号传递和神经递质平衡,从而在癫痫的发生、传播和控制中发挥着重要作用。

4.3 内分泌信号与肠道菌群代谢物途径

神经递质的失衡与癫痫发生密切相关,肠道微生物可以直接分泌或在代谢产物的刺激下由胃肠道细胞产生神经递质^[41]。不同的肠道菌群可产生不同的神经递质,例如,肠球菌、链球菌和大肠杆菌可以产生血清素,乳酸杆菌和双歧杆菌产生双歧杆菌家族可以产生 GABA,大肠杆菌和芽孢杆菌产生去甲肾上腺素(NE)和多巴胺^[42-43]。癫痫灶存在如 GABA 呈低活性,谷氨酸呈高活性,多巴胺和 NE 呈高活性,血清素呈低活性等神经递质失衡等现象^[41]。在无菌(GF)小鼠中,血浆色氨酸浓度比正常小鼠高 40%,而正常小鼠血浆血清素浓度比 GF 小鼠高 280%,这表明肠道菌群对将外周色氨酸转化为血清素起着至关重要的作用^[44]。并且 GF 小鼠的梭状芽孢杆菌可以通过上调结肠色氨酸羟化酶 1 (5-羟色胺合成的限速酶)来促进肠道 5-羟色胺(5-HT)的生物合成产生^[45-46],而颞叶癫痫患者存在 5-HT 缺乏症,并且增加 5-HT 的药物组合,如选择性 5-羟色胺再摄取抑制剂,可能改善癫痫患者的癫痫控制^[47]。

短链脂肪酸是微生物代谢产物,是目前微生物-肠-脑轴领域的研究热点,主要包括乙酸、丙酸和丁酸^[48]。短链脂肪酸通过直接或间接途径在小胶质细胞中成熟,调控肠-脑神经系统、血-脑脊液屏障通透性和应激反应功能调控癫痫的发生^[49]。例如,丁酸钠可以改善线粒体功能障碍,并通过 Keap/Nrf2/HO-1 通路保护脑组织免受氧化应激和神经元凋亡的影响,从而提高癫痫发作阈值,降低癫痫发作强度。在戊四唑(PTZ)诱导的癫痫小鼠模型中进一步研究了不同短链脂肪酸对癫痫的保护作用和机制^[50-51]。

5 微生物-肠-脑轴在癫痫治疗中的价值

5.1 益生菌

益生菌作为一种干预手段,已被证明能够通过改变肠道微生物群的组成,可减少癫痫发作的频率和严重程度^[10]。一项研究,与未经治疗的感染对照组相比,对受轮状病毒感染的新生儿使用益生菌如干酪乳杆菌可使癫痫发作的风险降低 10 倍^[52]。另外一项研究报告中,45 例难治性癫痫患者在接受包含多种益生菌如嗜酸乳杆菌、植物乳杆菌、干酪乳杆菌等治疗后,GABA 水平升高,炎症性白介素 6 (IL-6) 降低并且 28.9% 的患者癫痫发作次数减少了 50% 以上^[53]。动物研究进一步报道了补充益生菌不仅可以缓解癫痫发作,还能改善癫痫引起的认知障碍和海马长时程增强^[54-55]。尽管益生菌治疗与癫痫之间的确切机制尚不清楚,但因其安全性和临床使用的结果,益生菌可能作为癫痫患者的辅助治疗。

5.2 FMT

FMT 被证明为一种有效通过重建肠道微生物群治疗癫痫的方式^[56-58]。有研究发现一名同时患有克罗恩病和难治性癫痫患者接受了 FMT 治疗,结果显示其克罗恩病活动指数显著下降,癫痫发作也完全得到控制,且可以预防停药后癫痫的复发^[59]。动物研究表明,通过改变肠道微生物群,FMT 能够显著改善癫痫的控制,调节脑内的神经递质平衡,进而增加癫痫发作的阈值。研究发现,FMT 治疗的癫痫小鼠中,肠道胶质细胞激活,炎症细胞因子的产生减少,肠道屏障功能改善,即 FMT 的治疗改变了肠道微生物群并提供抗癫痫的神经保护^[60]。然而,FMT 的应用仍面临一定挑战,包括潜在的细菌、病毒传播风险以及可能破坏微生物群的多样性,导致抗生素耐药性的增加。

5.3 饮食干预

饮食干预,尤其是生酮饮食,已被证明是治疗癫痫的一种有效且有前景的方法^[61]。自 1921 年以来,生酮饮食以其高脂肪、低碳水化合物和适量蛋白质的独特比例,广泛应用于难治性癫痫患者的治疗^[62]。经典的生酮饮食比例为 4:1 的脂肪与蛋白质和碳水化合物的比例,这种饮食方式通过调节神经递质、脑能量代谢、氧化应激、离子通道以及 GM 的组成,发挥多重抗癫痫机制^[63-64]。据报道,生酮饮食有益于超过 1/3 的癫痫患者,并被证实是一种有效的治疗儿童难治性癫痫的策略^[65-66]。有研究表明生酮饮食减少了沙门菌、埃希菌和弧菌等肠杆菌科的有害细菌,增加了普雷天菌和拟杆菌的数量,产生大量短链脂肪酸,使得 64% 的患儿癫痫发作频率降低了 50%^[67]。生酮饮食产生的 β -羟基丁酸(BHB)可增加脑 GABA 和 GABA/谷氨酸比值以抑制癫痫^[68]。然而,生酮饮食对肠道微生物群的具体影响仍在进一步研究中,部分研究提示饮食可能导致双歧杆菌的减少和大肠杆菌的增加,这可能是其潜在的负面效应。

6 总结与展望

本文总结了关于微生物-肠-脑轴和它在癫痫的病因、预防和治疗中可能的作用的现有证据。大量的研究和证据表明,肠道功能障碍、紊乱与癫痫的发病和易感性密切相关,一些特定的肠道菌群可以作为难治性癫痫患者的肠道生物标志物和潜在治疗靶点,尽管具体的潜在机制尚未完全了解。此外,益生菌、FMT和生酮饮食也能显著影响肠道菌群,并进一步影响癫痫发作的频率和严重程度。这些干预通过调节肠道菌群的构成,可能在改善癫痫症状中发挥重要作用。

尽管微生物-肠-脑轴在癫痫中作用的研究已获得初步成果,但脑肠轴与癫痫关系的研究尚处于初步阶段,仍然需要对现有或未来研究结果保持谨慎解释。一方面需要更大的、设计良好的研究来明确癫痫中微生物-肠道-大脑轴的途径和机制。另一方面,既往的研究缺乏共识,难以明确哪些特定的肠道菌群与癫痫密切相关,这可能与多个因素有关,如患者的年龄、癫痫的病因、饮食模式、地理位置和社会经济地位等。因此,虽然饮食干预或益生菌治疗被认为是一种有前景的干预措施,不过现有的研究在肠道微生物成分上的描述仍有限。未来对微生物-肠道-脑轴的研究将成为癫痫研究的一个重要方向,有望成为肠脑轴相关的难治性癫痫的新的诊断和治疗目标。

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本文无利益冲突。

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